

July 4

Dear Ones,

Happy Birthday, HB!

I still haven't mailed the letter I wrote yesterday noon; when I am out here in the depot I don't have the opportunity to buy envelopes. Last night we played bridge for the first time in a month of Sundays. At a twentieth I lost 50¢ - the only thing that saved me was the following hand: I held the AK five times clubs and the AK of diamonds and I opened with one club. My partner jumps to the asking convention and I show him my strength - he says 7 hearts. He lays down a hand with eight hearts headed by the AKQJ and the A of spades; I had a singleton heart. He should have bid 7 no trump but the 100 honors made up for the difference. I have never seen a hand like that - cold as a cucumber. It kept from being way down in the red. I fell asleep doing the ~~TIME~~ crossword.

I am glad that things are getting back more or less to normal at 184; it is reassuring that things are not upset, and of course I understand that your letter writing opportunity is cut down by your new schedule, Daddy. HB certainly has a busy time ahead - you know, I have to orient my thinking to the fact that it is summer at home now; of course it is winter down here and so I think of it's being January at home. Very confusing.

If nothing else the Pearson column is always good for a laugh - like the day he reprinted Tyding's tirade against him. You have to give him credit for digging up the choicer bits of Washington chaff: the point is that his interest seems to center mostly on the relationship of personalities and their interplay as they affect the national scene. His reporting on Senatorial caperings, near fist-fights, and the like, are seldom creditable reflections on the manner in which some of our chosen representatives behave under pressure. Their acting that way and his reporting of it are democracy at work, I guess!

One of the Dahl cartoons covered the topic of Ferries and their proclivity toward bumping into their slips - I wonder if there is a wedge into Lou Raybin through Menikoe and the Ferry and the experiences of the summers of the '30's? Just a passing thought. I still remember his cheerful rhyming about the "Good Ship Nancy Helen" - what happened to ye olde ferry anyway? I guess you told me once at the time of Leon's passing. Why they publish Hope's nonsense is beyond me; for me, at least, his humor is getting stale and repetitious - you can spot his punch line a mile away. He has been at the top for a long time and the old spark of freshness is just gone. You don't hear these mammoth productions for GI radio which feature Crosby, Hope and all the stars together in different arrays - they are really tops; and the average GI is going to miss their sparkle in his peacetime commercial radio diet.

Mrs Cragg seems to write a very fair column and I imagine that there is no cutting done to it; she gives the Maine touch to her reporting without getting lopsided. .. I have just come back from lunch - we ate at the hospital as usual and the meal was fine; I don't know how they do it but we manage to two or three fresh vegetables with every meal. The food is excellently prepared and all of us agree that it is the best mess we have struck in the Army. (I go up with the men who are out at the depot with me; Officers serve themselves cafeteria style as the men do - there is no separate mess although we eat in a partitioned area.)

The cottages are really getting Hifalutin - I hope the West Point colonel doesn't go looking for dust around the cottages with his white kid gloves! It is going to

be a wonderful day when I get out of uniform and a colonel or a general is just another joker who happens to be working for the USArmy! I see that the TIMES is conducting a m^jor cap^aign in its editorial columns against what it correctly labels false economies - such as the slashing of State Department budgets. At the time we are in dire need of the most complete service which the government can receive, we try to pinch pennies and in so doing deny ourselves the means of securing them. It took major presidential pressure to save the bulk of the OWI program; now the Senate is threatening to slash the appropriation for the Office of Inter American affairs. False economy is the only way to describe it.

OK for this noon time -

All my love,

Regards to Doris

Summer
Deferred the comment on new labor bill for later